

All American City

The City of Westminster was named one of the ten "all American Cities" in 1996. The national competition, sponsored by the National Leagues of Cities, is based on how the community comes together to address and solve its own problems.

History

The story of Westminster that was and the Westminster that has changed through the years to become the thriving city, as we know it today, is one of a cooperative spirit, purpose and determination.

The Presbyterian Reverend Lemuel P. Webber founded Westminster temperance colony in 1870 upon his purchase of some 6,000 acres of the Steams Rancho. Fulfilling his dream, he invited those people with like ideas in religion and morals to locate on individual 40-acre farms in his new colony. The town was named for the Westminster Assembly of 1643, which prescribed the basic tenets of the Presbyterian Church. John Y. Anderson, a native of Virginia, was the first man to respond to the Reverend's invitation. Anderson took up residence on the corner of what we now know as Westminster **Boulevard and Monroe Street.**

The community maintained its rural character until the housing boom that followed World War II in the 1940s and 50s. The City was incorporated in 1957 as a bedroom community to the aerospace, industrial and commercial centers of L. A. County. Residential growth brought large tracts of single-family homes, apartments and mobile home parks to Westminster and

commercial areas developed along the major boulevards.

In the 1970s, an influx of Vietnamese and other peoples of Asian heritage came to Southern California. Many Vietnamese were attracted to Westminster initially because of the inexpensive retail space and affordable housing along Bolsa Avenue. The area, now recognized as "Little Saigon" has the largest concentration of Vietnamese in the United States.

In 1982 the Westminster Redevelopment Agency was formed and in 1983 the first project area was adopted comprising approximately 180 acres of land. The Plan was amended in 1986, 1987, 1989, and 1991, which increased the total redevelopment area to 2,076 acres. In July of 2000 the plan was amended placing the balance of the city into the redevelopment area effective, August 11, 2000. The project area and city area equal 6,994 acres

Westminster is home for the West Orange County Municipal Courthouse, the beautiful Westminster Mall and pleasant residential neighborhoods, parks, churches and schools.

<u>Business</u>

The City of Westminster is strategically located with the 22 (Garden Grove) Freeway on its northern boundary and the 405 (San Diego) Freeway on its southern boundary. It is 15 minutes from Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm and 10 minutes form Southern California's beautiful beaches. The John Wayne airport is within 10 miles and Los Angeles International airport is 45 minutes away. The modern Westminster Mall at

Goldenwest and the 405 Freeway has in excess of 200 stores. The Westminster Center is a 40-acre site with a variety of retail, food services and a large theater complex. A Wal-Mart and Lowe's complex was added in 1998.

Little Saigon

Once home to orange and lemon groves, Westminster now attracts perhaps the greatest Asian population any place in the United States. A visit to Little Saigon is a trip to another land. Clothes, food and services cater to the needs of a unique audience with money to spend.

In the early 70's Vietnamese migrated and settled in Orange County. A major developer and refugee himself, Frank Jao built the Little Saigon mall. The Vietnamese came to recognize this development as an opportunity to reunite with their friends and their culture. Mr. Jao and others began to develop other businesses in the district while successfully maintaining the Asian atmosphere, which is enjoyed by all visitors.

On a typical weekend, cars back up on Bolsa Avenue, waiting in line to park at the Asian Garden Mall and other shops of Little Saigon a cultural region which bridges two cities, Westminster and Garden Grove. With the influence of Saigon, Cambodia, Thailand and Korean cultures, foods, spices and clothes plus services such as tax preparation, catering, tailoring, wedding planning, photography and more offer signage and service in native tongues with English also spoken.

Discover some of the fine cakes and pastries shops such as Lily's on Bolsa Ave. near the Asian Gardens. The French influence can be tasted and seen in gourmet breads, rolls and cakes which are some of the best-anywhere.

Vietnamese, Cambodians, Koreans, Chinese and ethnic groups flock from miles around to this mecca. On a busy day, traffic is at a standstill as cars logjam their way into several malls and numerous shops. Annual festivals in commemorate Korean and Tet holidays.

Government

Incorporated in 1957.

Westminster has a Council - Manager form of government with the City Council appointing a professional-administrator.

Four persons are elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms on the City Council.

Since 1986, the voters directly elect the Mayor for a two-year term.

General Election (11/2002)

Registered voters	38,088
Votes cast last city election	19,003
% Voting last city election	49.9%

Location

Westminster is located in Orange County, approximately 25 miles southeast of Los Angeles and 5 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean.

The city is situated between two of the region's most active freeways, Interstate 405 and Route 22.

State Route 39, otherwise known as Beach Boulevard, also bisects the City. The Westminster segment of Beach Boulevard carries more daily traffic than any section along its 20-mile span.

Demographics

Population

2004	91,464
2003	90,643
2002	89,683
2001	89,297
2000	88,207

Median Age

2000	34.1
1990	30.2
1980	29.3

2000 Racial Composition of City

White	36.20%
Asian, Pacific Islander	38.40%
Hispanic	21.70%
Black	.90%
Other	2.80%

Number of Housing Unit	ts	Law Violations: Physical Arrests 2,384
2004	27,185	
2003	•	· · ·
	27,057	Parking Violations 18,321
2002	26,718	Total Incidents 31,568
2001	26,642	<u></u>
Land Uses	Acres	Fire
Commercial	850.4	Stations 3
Industrial	319.9	Fire personnel (OCFA) 45
Public Facilities	477.1	Medic/Engines 3
		Trucks 1
Single Family Residential	2,561.0	Transportation Ambulances 2
Multi-family Residential	861.57	Reserve Truck 1
Roadways	2,017.33	Reserve Emergency Transport 1
Other	190.10	Calls answered 5,674
Total Acres	6,816	
Total Vacant Acres	6 3.6	Inspections conducted 358
Square Miles	10.6	Doublie Montes
		Public Works
 School Enrollment 		Streets 171.3 miles
2003	10,000	Street Lights (total) 4,687
2002	10,179	Traffic Signals 95
2001	10,000	-
2000	10,017	Redevelopment Agency
New Construction		Created September 28, 1982
		Water
Commercial		110101
2004	337 permits	Production Wells 14
2003	308 permits	
2002	201 permits	Well Capacity 78.4 acre feet/day
2001	214 permits	Miles of water mains 157
2000	264 permits	Number of service connections 19,987
	·	Number of fire hydrants 2,611
Residential		Average daily
2004	1,536 permits	consumption 24.66 acre feet/day
2003	1,381 permits	Maximum daily capacity produced
2002	1,122 permits	by the City in acre feet per day 60.0
2001	1,122 permits	
2000	1,823 permits	Services Provided by Other
2000	1,025 permits	Governmental Units
City Services		Governmental Offics
<u> </u>		Education
Community Sandose		
Community Services		Westminster School District
Community Conton	4	Elementary schools 13
Community Centers	1	•
Recreation Centers	2	
Parks	25	•
Park Acreage	81.45	Secondary school instructors 109
Tennis Courts	11	High Schools 1
Police		Trash and Sewers
Stations	1	Midway City Sanitary District
Police Personnel	197	Garden Grove Sanitary District
Patrol Units	23	
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Library Services

Orange County Library

Gas

Southern California Gas Company

Electricity

Southern California Edison Company

Public Transportation

Orange County Transportation Authority

Imported Water

Purchased:

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Distributed:

Municipal Water District of Orange County

Drainage

Orange County Flood Control District

Economics

Property Tax Assessed Valuation

Real	\$4,010,413,815
Personal	\$168,233,484
Value Building Permits	\$36,844,480

Major Employers

Westminster School District (education)
Southern California Edison Co. (electric)
Vencor Hospital (acute care)
City Of Westminster (government)
Midway Sanitation District (sanitation)
Sears/mall/etc. (retail)

Unemployment Rate for the Area*

2004	3.9
2003	4.5
2002	3.7
2001	3.2
2000	3.2

Bond Ratings

98 Refunding	
Series A	Aaa/AAA
Series B	Aaa/AAA
Redevelopment	Aaa/AAA

Transportation

Two main freeways pass through the City; the San Diego Freeway (I-405) and the Garden Grove Freeway (Highway 22).

The closest airport to the City is the John Wayne Airport, which is located ten miles from the City. The Long Beach Municipal Airport, twelve miles from the City, also serves the City of Westminster. In addition, the Los Angeles International Airport is thirty-five miles from the City and provides passenger flights on all major airlines as well as air cargo service.

Local bus transportation is provided through the Orange County Transit District. Greyhound Bus Line also provides service to other local and additional transcontinental service. Southern Pacific Railroad and Amtrak provide commercial and passenger rail services.

Climate

Average Temperature	62 degrees
Average Rainfall	15.93 inches

Contact the City

General	Telephone	Numbers:
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Building & Inspection	(714) 895-2898
City Hall	(714) 898-3311
Fax	(714) 373-4684
City Hall at the Mall	(714) 894-3796
Fax	(714) 898-8251
Community Services	(714) 895-2860
Fax	(714) 373-5701
Public Works Fax	(714) 373-4499
Corporation Yard	(714) 895-2876
Fax	(714) 373-5328
Family Resource Center	(714) 903-1331
Police Department	(714) 898-3315

Web Site:

http://www.ci.westminster.ca.us Westminster Municipal Code:

http://www.bpcnet.com/codes/westminster

Sources include:

City of Westminster Records; City of Westminster Consolidated General Plan & Environmental Impact Report; State of California, Employment Development Department; State of California Department of Finance; State of California, Department of Finance; Demographic Research Unit; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Census; Westminster School District.